

DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

NRC INVITES PUBLIC TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is seeking qualified candidates for an appointment to its Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW). Currently there are five members and the Commission is seeking to replace one of the positions on the Committee.

The ACNW is a part-time advisory group established by the NRC in 1988 to provide independent technical review of and advice on the disposal of nuclear waste, including all aspects of nuclear waste disposal facilities, as directed by the NRC. The ACNW undertakes independent studies and reviews related to disposal, storage, and transportation of both high- and low-level radioactive waste including interim storage of spent nuclear fuel; materials safety; and facilities decommissioning. This encompasses activities related to rulemakings, associated regulatory guides, and technical positions developed to support and clarify NRC's nuclear materials and radioactive waste regulations. Currently, the Commission is seeking an individual with technical expertise in radioactive waste disposal, site remediation and closure activities, nuclear fuel reprocessing, chemistry, chemical exchange processes, and nuclear fuel cycle.

The ACNW membership includes individuals who possess specific technical expertise along with a broad perspective in addressing safety concerns. Committee

members are selected from a variety of engineering and scientific disciplines, such as risk assessment, chemistry, mechanical engineering, civil engineering, materials sciences, and earth sciences. At this time, candidates are being sought who have 15-20 years of experience, including graduate level education, in the management and disposal of radioactive waste. Committee members serve a 4-year term with the possibility of reappointment for a total service of 8 years.

Criteria used to evaluate candidates includes education and experience, demonstrated skills in nuclear waste management matters, and the ability to solve complex technical problems. The Commission, in selecting its Committee members, considers the need for a specific expertise to accomplish the work expected to be before the ACNW. For this position, the expertise must be directly related to the areas of radioactive waste disposal, site remediation and closure activities, materials degradation, corrosion of metals and alloys, and nuclear fuel cycle. Demonstrated experience would be particularly desirable in engineering design and risk assessment associated with underground structures, tunnels, and mining complexes, with emphasis in the area of radioactive waste storage and disposal. Consistent with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Commission seeks candidates with diverse backgrounds so that the membership on the Committee will be fairly balanced in terms of the points of view represented and functions to be performed by the Committee.

Candidates for ACNW appointments may be involved in or have financial interests related to NRC-regulated aspects of the nuclear industry. Because conflict-of-interest considerations may restrict the participation of a candidate in ACNW activities, the degree and nature of any such restriction on an individual's activities as a member will be considered in the selection process. Each qualified candidate's financial interests must be reconciled with applicable Federal and NRC rules and regulations prior to final appointment. This might require divestiture of securities or discontinuance of certain contracts or grants. Information regarding these restrictions will be provided upon request.

A resumé describing the educational and professional background of the candidate, including special accomplishments and professional references should be provided. Candidates should provide their current address, telephone number, and e-mail address. All candidates will receive careful consideration. Appointment will be made without regard to such factors as race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disabilities. Candidates must be citizens of the United States and be able to devote approximately 70-100 days per year to Committee business. Applications will be accepted until January 30, 2004.

Copies of resumé of nominees should be sent to Ms. Sherry Meador, Administrative Assistant, ACRS/ACNW, Mail Stop T2E-26, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, email address SAM@NRC.gov.